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Celebrity Buzz
Tatum's scalding hot shame pg 22

Conan says no thanks to network

FUNNYMAN Conan O'Brien has refused to play along with NBC's plan to move The Tonight Show and return Jay Leno to late night, abruptly derailing the network's effort to resolve its scheduling mess.

In his statement, wryly addressed to "People of Earth," the comic knocked his network's prime-time ratings woes, which stem in part from the poor performance of Leno's new prime-time show.

Online, many took to O'Brien's defence and applauded the host's stand against NBC.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Scan this barcode to read O'Brien's full statement, or read it at metronews.ca/entertainment.

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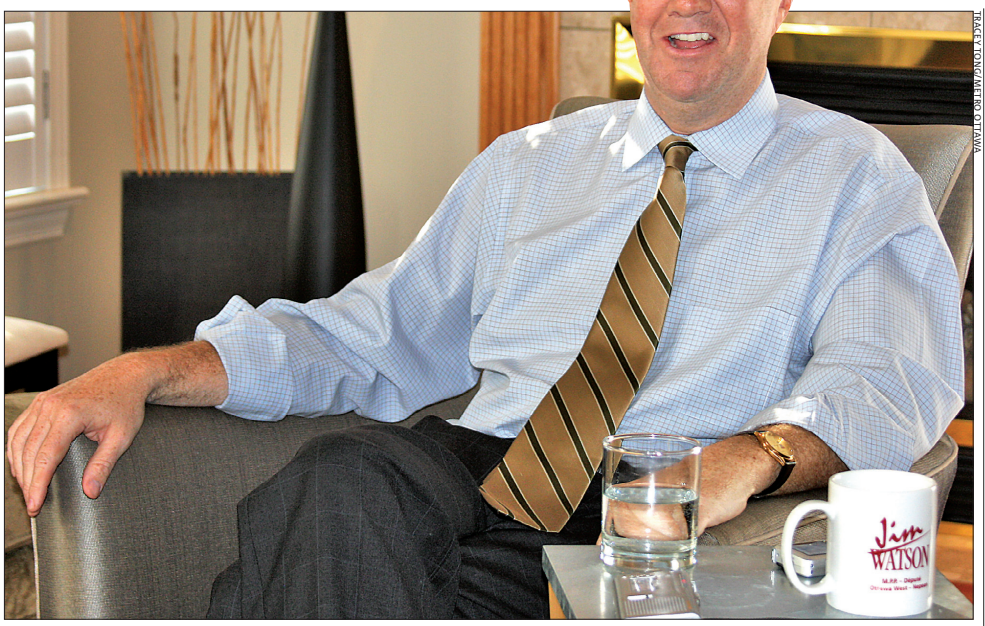

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Jim Watson, who announced his candidacy in the mayoral race for October's municipal election yesterday, reacts to a question during an interview at his west-end home. "My heart has always been in municipal government," said the 48-year-old. More coverage, page 3

Back for more

Leadership is key issue for former Ottawa mayor

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

After months of speculation, Jim Watson made it official yesterday.

The minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and MPP of Ottawa West-Nepean announced his candidacy for mayor of Ottawa.

"I've become somewhat frustrated with the lack of progress on a number of issues facing the city, whether it's light rail or the sewage issue in the Ottawa River," said Watson, who stepped down from the provincial cabinet in order to declare his intentions for the Oct. 25 municipal election.

"The past few years have not been the city's finest and I believe the residents and taxpayers of this city deserve better.

"You can do one of two things," said Watson, 48. "You can sit on the sidelines and complain, or you can put your money where your mouth is ... My heart has always been in municipal government. I had a wonderful opportunity to be the minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, but if I'm successful, I'll be able to help the city move a number of these issues forward because of my experience provincially and because of my experience federally."

> **"I've become somewhat frustrated with the lack of progress on a number of issues facing the city."**
> Jim Watson

Watson first served as an Ottawa councillor in 1991, and was elected as mayor in 1997.

He was also president of the Canadian Tourism Commission, and in 2003, was elected MPP for Ottawa West-Nepean. He's held three senior portfolios, serving as minister of Consumer and Business Services and Ontario's first minister of Health Promotion.

The upcoming election will be about leadership, Watson said. "We cannot afford to have another four years like the past four."

Still, there are a few things council is doing right.

"I think they've done some good work in working with the federal and provincial government in identifying key infrastructure priorities."

Watson said he plans to use the next several months to listen to and consult with the people of Ottawa.

No choice but to strike, says teacher

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

VOTE College professors have no choice but to vote to give the union bargaining team a strike mandate when they cast their ballots today, an Algonquin College professor said.

After travelling to different campuses across the province with other members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union bargaining team, Rod Bain senses no teacher wants a strike, but management has imposed terms that leave them no choice but to support a strike mandate.

Strike
• If no agreement is reached, a strike could start in February.

Bain said strike mandates usually receive strong support from the union members and both sides would likely return to the table after the vote. They have not spoken since Dec. 15.

On Monday, Algonquin College president Robert Gillett sent a letter to students stating there would not be a strike until February if no agreement could be reached.

In the event of a strike, Gillett wrote that the college would develop semester completion plans to help students finish their studies.

"Please rest assured we will do everything in our power to make this semester as positive as possible," Gillett wrote.

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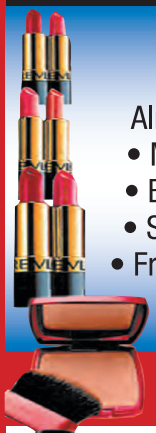

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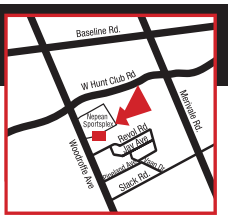

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Local

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In 2010, fulfil your resolution to kick butt. In partnership with Ottawa Public Health, the free Accessible Chances for Everyone to Stop Smoking program is offering eight-week sessions at six locations across the city to provide Ottawa residents with support to quit in a relaxed group atmosphere. With day and evening sessions and childcare and bus tickets available with prior notice, it'll be hard to make excuses. For more information, call 613-580-6744 or visit ottawa.ca/health. METRO OTTAWA

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

Some council candidates like limits on terms

ELECTION City council should not be a life sentence, insist many of the candidates who are on the outside looking in.

Earlier this week, Cumberland Ward candidate Stephen Blais and Bay Ward candidate Mark Taylor both issued statements that they would not run for a third term, if elected.

"Setting a date by which a politician must leave office often helps set a more ambitious timetable for them to deliver on results," Taylor said in a release.

Kanata-South candidate Allan Hubley and Rideau-Goulbourn candidate Scott Moffat also agree, while Bay Ward candidates George Guirguis and Ike Awgu were against it.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

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What's online today.

Blogs It's Called Football welcomes Sean Keay of mlsdraft.ca to break down the draft and SpinDoctor details how the digital age tripped up PM Harper's prorogation plans.

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 3 2 7; Ontario Pick 4: 6 2 8 4
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O'Brien eager to hear Watson's ideas

Minister's candidacy won't affect mayor's plan to delay election intentions

TIM WIECLAWSKI
tim.wieclawski@metronews.ca

Mayor Larry O'Brien is looking forward to hearing candidate Jim Watson's comments and thoughts during the coming mayoral campaign.

"He's an accomplished career politician," said O'Brien yesterday, reacting to Watson announcing his candidacy. "Candidate Watson has a tremendous sense of style and I've always preferred substance over style. I want to see his ideas as the campaign unfolds."

Watson's announcement will have no impact on O'Brien's intention to hold off declaring his intentions regarding the next campaign until June.

"We have a lot of work to do over the next six months and quite frankly, these campaigns are ridiculously long," he said.

O'Brien said he wants to focus on completing important files like transit, Lansdowne Park, and Plasco.

In a release sent out yesterday, Watson, an MPP and minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, stated that people are frustrated with the direction and performance of city hall, but O'Brien insists this term of council has accomplished more than the previous three or four terms of council, including the 32 months of Watson's truncated term as mayor of the pre-amalgamated Ottawa.

O'Brien

O'Brien pointed to progress on the city's rapid transit network, Lansdowne Park, and reduced spills to the Ottawa River. Those are issues that have been around for decades before this council acted to solve them, said O'Brien.

Deep cuts to green initiatives concern group

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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DRAFT BUDGET There are many positive steps in the city's 2010 budget, but Ecology Ottawa is concerned that environmental initiatives are being targeted in order to keep taxes low.

"It seems like the environment is getting relegated to the back seat," said Ecology Ottawa co-ordinator Sabrina Bowman.

While Bowman said they are pleased to see funding for the pedestrian and cycling plan, they are concerned about a lack of funding for the tree protection bylaw, which requires property owners to get permits before cutting down large, mature trees. Bowman said the budget also calls for cuts to tree trimming from once every five to seven years to once every 32. That would enhance the risk of exposure to the emerald ash borer.

"We know that councillors are under pressure to save money," said Lori Waller, Ecology Ottawa's policy co-ordinator. "But it seems that environmental spending is often targeted for the deepest cuts, and they've targeted a few key areas, like tree maintenance and transit service, for aggressive slashing."

The 2010 property tax increase is projected to be around four per cent. City council will hear public delegations on the draft budget starting Jan. 25.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Ecology Ottawa co-ordinator Sabrina Bowman is encouraging Ottawa residents to contact their city councillors and show their support for environmental initiatives threatened in the 2010 draft city budget.

City certain green-bin program will grow

ONE WEEK DOWN In the first week of green bin collection in the city, workers collected 200 tonnes of material — half of what the program is eventually anticipated to pick up per collection day.

But the city's manager of solid waste operation is confident the tonnage will increase as the weeks go by.

"That was Week 1 of the program," said Marilyn Journeaux.

The green bins will collect more material once more people figure out how the program works, she said.

"Right now, it's winter and the tonnage is low because we're only getting household organics," she said. "We're not getting leaf and yard waste or garden waste."

There was a small glitch earlier this week, after the contractor, Orgaworld Canada, informed the city that its current Ministry of Environment Certificate of Approval issued by the Ministry of the Environment should not include dog feces as an acceptable material.

The city's promotional materials, delivered to every home with a green bin, were prepared before Orgaworld stated the certificate of approval does not include dog feces. It does include kitty litter and rabbit and small animal bedding.

Journeaux said the reason that dog poop is not allowed in the green bins is because it is usually collected in plastic bags, and the green bin program is a plastic-free program.

Other problems include food stuck inside green bins, said Journeaux.

But as a whole, rollout has gone very smoothly and the city is getting much more positive feedback, she said.

When the green bins were first delivered, 1.25 per cent of people who received the bins asked to have them removed, Journeaux said.

"Now, there are people who ask if they can have more than one bin."

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

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Popular healing treatment doesn't work: Study

A new study shows an increasingly popular treatment used by elite athletes to speed healing doesn't work better than a placebo when it comes to tendon injuries. The injected treatment, called platelet-rich plasma or PRP, has been used by a range of athletes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

The Beaver to change its name

After 90 years, venerable history magazine The Beaver is getting a new moniker, in part because of the sexual connotation of its name. The Winnipeg-based publication will be relaunched in the spring as Canada's History. The innuendo of the old name was causing problems for the magazine online, said Deborah Morrison, president and CEO of Canada's National History Society, which publishes The Beaver. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds put airliners on high terror alert

New security warnings since the alleged terrorist attempt to bomb an American airliner on Christmas Day led Ottawa to put airlines and carriers on high alert on the weekend, Transport Minister John Baird said yesterday.

Canadians must remain vigilant while travelling by air amid these new warnings, he added.

"There's specific information that certainly causes me concern, causes our security officials concern, and I think we need to maintain heightened vigilance in this time," said Baird, speaking in Toronto after an unrelated funding announcement.

"We don't want panic. At the same time I think the public would expect us, when there's a reasonable concern, to be open and honest about that heightened concern."

Baird wouldn't discuss the specifics of the threats that led Transport Canada to put all airlines and carriers on high alert late Saturday, but he said it didn't relate to any kind of imminent attack.

"It's at medium level, this is not anything like 9-11, but obviously information that we received is a concern," Baird said.

"We can't lower our guard."

The government has no immediate plans to accelerate the deployment of full-body scanners at airports as a result of the warnings, Baird added, saying heightened security measures are already underway.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Body scanners

- Ottawa plans to install dozens of scanners that can peer through clothing at airports across Canada as part of a watch system that will be set up to look for suspicious passengers and tab them for further screening. The scanners will first be installed in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Halifax.

B.C. Soldier mourned

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sian Jones LeSueur, mother of Pte. Garrett Chidley, is seen receiving a hug at the start of her son's funeral in Surrey, B.C., yesterday. Chidley was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan with three other soldiers and a Canadian reporter.

Harper looking to recruit workers

IMMIGRATION Prime Minister Stephen Harper says Canada will actively recruit immigrants to fill the looming worker shortage fuelled in large part by baby boomers leaving the workforce.

Harper says it's not enough just to tackle the backlog of immigration applications, Canada must seek out immigrants to fill the vacant positions resulting from an improved economy and the hole left by older workers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ARCTIC SPY The CIA normally concerns itself with terrorism and other threats to U.S. security, so the recent revelation that it is routinely monitoring the Arctic's rapidly shrinking ice cap, and now sharing spy satellite photos with climate-change scientists, caught some by surprise. The little-known CIA program has been restarted after being shuttered by the George W. Bush administration for several years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE

In a nation in dire need of doctors, why do many Afghan med students say they will never practice? Scan this code for the story.

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Comment

Miep Gies — a story of courage

TheWestView

Buried under this week's news about a monumental ego leaving American Idol was the passing of a monumental human being.

You probably don't need me to tell you who Simon Cowell is. He's a one-man media juggernaut. Miep Gies, on the other hand, was a little old lady. Little, as in barely five feet tall; old, as in 100.

Cowell has become one of the richest people in show business by being rude to the poor schlumps who lurch across the Idol stage, pathetically hoping to become a star. Gies lived quietly in a three-room apartment in an obscure town in Holland, but was famous in her own way.

It is my fervent hope that long after Cowell has faded into obscurity, the memory of Miep Gies and her remarkable story will endure.

During the Second World War, Gies made a decision that gave history a little nudge, allowing a tiny voice of goodness to emerge from the immense evil of the Holocaust. Gies and her husband and several others were the non-Jews who decided to risk everything and hide Anne Frank and her family from the Nazi Final Solution. When Anne was captured and transported to the death camps, Gies retrieved and preserved her diary.

When Anne's father, the only surviving member of the Frank family, returned to Amsterdam after the war, Gies gave him the diary; it has gone on to sell more than 30 million copies in 67 languages.

Thanks to Miep Gies, the millions who were murdered by Hitler have a human face. Today, as memories dim and die, good (barely) manages to hold its own in the daily struggle with evil in the insidious form of Holocaust denial — thanks to Miep Gies.

While she spent her life bearing witness to the courage and humanity of Anne Frank, Gies underrated her own courage. "I am not a hero," she said many times. If people see her as a heroine, she feared, they will doubt their own capacity to do what she did. And she did it, she said, because it seemed necessary at the time.

For most of my life I've wondered what I would consider "necessary" in the same situation. I worry that, like millions, I would have just kept my head down, or worse, wrote enthusiastic pro-Nazi columns. It's a lot easier to be craven than brave.

But I like to think if a tiny woman, an ordinary secretary, could stand tall and courageous in the face of evil, so could I. Could you? As long as we take heart and remember Miep Gies and her extraordinary story, there's hope for both of us.

Miep Gies died Monday night. She was my hero.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: If life on planets outside our solar system is confirmed, will that alter your spiritual/religious beliefs?

Stephanie Vizi
Ottawa
A: No, I'm rooted in my faith. I just won't change it.

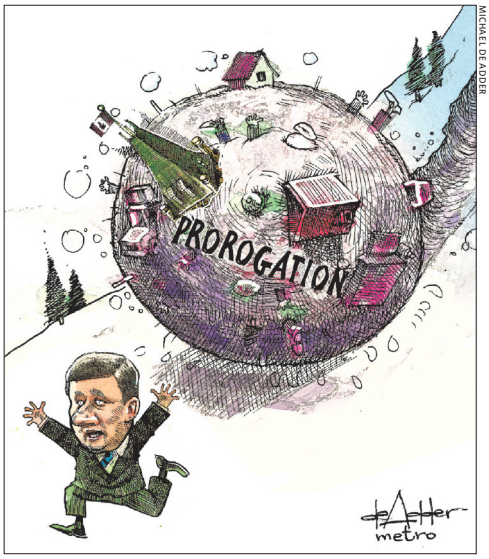
Hashen Hamdy
Ottawa
A: It won't change my religious or spiritual beliefs, but it will change my political belief in that I'll need to conquer them as well.

Erinn Mistak
Ottawa
A: If anything, I would agree with what I already believe. I think there's life out there for sure. There are lots of secrets. Obviously, we don't know everything.

Altaf Ledha
Vancouver
A: No. I believe more spiritual than religious, so I keep an open mind ... if something like that happened, it wouldn't surprise me.

Jennifer Ripley
Halifax
A: No, I don't think it would. I'm pretty firm in my belief and I don't think it would change it at all. It would be very interesting if that were true, but as of right now I don't think that would change it.

Carl Macdonald
Calgary
A: I actually don't believe they will ever confirm life on other planets to begin with.



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Palin to make Fox debut with Bill O'Reilly
Sarah Palin will debut as a Fox News Channel commentator on tonight's edition of The O'Reilly Factor. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

'Disaster and chaos' after quake hits Haiti

The largest earthquake to hit Haiti in more than 200 years rocked the Caribbean nation yesterday. Measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale, the quake collapsed a hospital where people screamed for help and heavily damaging other buildings. U.S. officials reported bodies lying in the streets and an aid official described "total disaster and chaos."

United Nations officials said a large number of UN personnel were unaccounted for.

Communications were widely disrupted, making it impossible to get a full picture of damage as powerful aftershocks shook a desperately poor country where many buildings are flimsy. Electricity was out in some places.

Karel Zelenka, a Catholic Relief Services representative in Port-au-Prince, told U.S. colleagues before phone service failed that "there must be thousands of people dead," according to a spokeswoman for the aid group, Sara Fajardo.

"He reported that it was just total disaster and chaos, that there were clouds of dust surrounding Port-au-Prince," Fajardo said from the group's offices in Maryland.

Felix Augustin, Haiti's consul general in New York, said a portion of the National Palace had disintegrated.

"Buildings collapsed all over the place," he said. "We have lives that are destroyed. ... It will take at least two or three days for people to know what's going on." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ready to help

- The Canadian government says it's ready to assist Haiti. Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon says about 6,000 Canadians are believed to be in the country. Gov-Gen Michaelle Jean, who is of Haitian origin, says the natural disaster has hit "a country with an extremely fragile infrastructure, where many buildings are already unstable."

News in brief

LONDON The British government banned an Islamist group notorious for glorifying al-Qaida, but its spiritual leader promised to reorganize. The group, Islam4UK, threatened to march in protest through the streets of a town known for honouring British soldiers killed in Afghanistan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE
Recall of potentially toxic jewelry sheds light on an open secret in Chinese manufacturing. Scan this code for the story.

India Protesting racist attacks

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Student activists protest attacks on Indian students in Australia in front of the Australian Embassy in New Delhi yesterday. India has asked Australia to take immediate steps to curb violence against its citizens there, warning that recent attacks could affect relations between the two countries.

Door left open for manslaughter claim in abortion doctor's death

KANSAS A U.S. judge has again refused to block a confessed abortion clinic killer from arguing in court that he should be spared a murder conviction because he believed he was saving unborn children.

Judge Warren Wilbert dealt prosecutors a setback during a hearing yesterday. He said that until the defence decides which evidence it will present, it's difficult for him to rule out Scott Roeder's proposed defence claim in the killing of Dr. George Tiller in Wichita, Kansas, last May.

Jury selection for Roeder's trial is expected to begin today. He is charged with first-degree murder. The Kansas Supreme Court was considering a challenge from four media outlets, including The Associated Press, over the judge's decision to bar reporters from witnessing jury selection.

Wilbert had decided last week he would allow the 51-year-old Roeder — who admits killing Tiller — to build a defence case calling for a lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter.

Kansas law defines voluntary manslaughter as "an unreasonable but honest belief" that there were circumstances to justify deadly force. It could bring a prison sentence closer to five years, instead of a life term for first-degree murder. The ruling last week changed what had been expected to be a simple case — with the defendant's confession and more than 250 possible witnesses for the prosecution — and galvanized both sides of the abortion debate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Court rejects Rather bid

New York's top court has rejected Dan Rather's bid to reinstate his $70-million breach-of-contract lawsuit against CBS Corp. Rather's motion was denied without comment yesterday by the Court of Appeals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	GAS	OIL	TSX
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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Canadian merchandise exports rise in November

TRADE A strong Canadian dollar helped tip the country's international trade balance back into deficit in November despite a modest pickup in exports, Statistics Canada reported yesterday.

Exports rose 1.1 per cent, but imports jumped 3.9 per cent during the month, producing a deficit of $344 million after a strong October that saw Canada post its first trade surplus in months at $503 million.

Economists say with the loonie worth nearly as much as the American dollar, the prospects for 2010 remain bleak for Canadian exporters.

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Canadian investment law flawed: U.S. Steel

An American steel company says legislation governing foreign investment in Canada is "essentially flawed" because it doesn't define how an investor can justify failure to meet promises made to the government.

U.S. Steel was in Federal Court yesterday, arguing that a case against it should be thrown out due to the legal flaws in the Investment Canada Act.

The federal government has said the company failed to adequately justify its failure to meet employment and production promises it made when it bought the former Stelco.

But U.S. Steel lawyer Michael Barrack told court that the act doesn't explain what constitutes an adequate justification.

"That's where the imprecision and vagueness of the statute is," Barrack said.

"How do I justify its non-compliance? How do I avoid having the government come and force me to sell my property? How do I behave in an acceptable way?"

The company's constitutional challenge of the act rests on the premise that the act is quasi-criminal in nature because of the penalties it imposes on a foreign investor that fails to meet its promises, but doesn't afford the investor all the rights allowed in a criminal case.

For example, Barrack argued that U.S. Steel has not been told by Industry Minister Tony Clement why its 88-page explanation of why the economy prevented it from meeting its promises wasn't enough of a justification under the act. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Challenge

- U.S. Steel's constitutional challenge to the Investment Canada Act is the first since it was adopted 24 years ago. A federal review is required any time a Canadian company with assets of more than $312 million is bought by a foreign entity.

Business in brief

HOUSING The New Housing Price Index rose 0.4 per cent in November following a 0.3 per cent increase in October. Statistics Canada reports the monthly index has been steadily increasing since July.

OILSANDS The Conference Board of Canada says Alberta's oilsands shouldn't be singled out as the reason for the country's poor record on greenhouse gas emissions. The private-sector think-tank says road transportation accounted for 18 per cent of total Canadian greenhouse-gas emissions in 2007.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE
Newly unveiled Cadillac hybrid sets new "paradigm," may be built in Canada. Scan this code for the story.

Women's HEALTH CENTRE
CENTRE DE SANTÉ POUR les femmes
The Ottawa Hospital L'Hôpital d'Ottawa

An Investigational Oral Contraceptive Pill Clinical Research Study

Many women who take the birth control pill have pelvic pain, cramping, or headaches during the hormone-free interval (the week off the pill when they either take sugar pills or no pill at all). They may also have breast tenderness, nausea, vomiting, heavy bleeding, bloating, or swelling.

A new birth control method has been developed in an investigational study and is currently being evaluated in a worldwide research study. This investigational drug may reduce the amount of pelvic pain or headaches women have during the hormone-free interval compared to other birth control pills.

You may qualify to take part in this study if:
- You are between 18 and 50 years old
- You are currently taking a monthly birth control pill
- You have pelvic pain/cramping or headaches during your week off the pill

For more information, please contact:
Lorraine Denis
Clinical Research Coordinator
The Ottawa Hospital – Riverside Campus
613-738-8400 ext 81732

This research project has been approved by the Ottawa Hospital Research Ethics Board.

NHL looking into Burrows' spat with ref

The NHL's top disciplinarian, Colin Campbell, is looking into Vancouver Canucks forward Alexandre Burrows' spat with referee Stephane Auger. Burrows accused Auger of making payback penalty calls against him in the third period of the Canucks' 3-2 home loss to the Nashville Predators on Monday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports

Cujo makes it official

Curtis Joseph, left, the winningest goaltender in National Hockey League history to have never won the Stanley Cup, announced his retirement yesterday. The 42-year-old ended his 19-year career with 454 wins, trailing only Martin Brodeur (585), Patrick Roy (551) and Ed Belfour (484) for the most in NHL history. "It's a good day and been a great career," an upbeat Joseph said. "I'm extremely happy and certainly felt like I didn't leave anything on the table." THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Senators' slide continues

NHL RESULTS

Ottawa 1 Atlanta 6

Ilya Kovalchuk had a goal and two assists, and the Atlanta Thrashers beat Ottawa 6-1 last night for their first regulation victory in 21 games.

The Thrashers, who had lost 11 of their previous 12, were coming off an embarrassing 8-1 home loss to Southeast Division rival Washington on Saturday.

Atlanta goaltender Ondrej Pavelec made 30 saves and the Thrashers held Ottawa to an 0-for on their power plays.

The Senators' NHL-worst power play percentage dipped to 14.0.

m.metronews.ca

ScanLife

The Habs' power play is back atop the league, now if they could only get more opponents to misbehave. Scan this code for the story.

Already without captain Daniel Alfredsson, who's recovering from a separated shoulder, the Senators played their second straight game without defenceman Filip Kuba (upper body) and third straight without Milan Michalek (upper body). Centres Jason Spezza (knee) and Jesse Winchester (knee) are out indefinitely.

The Thrashers scored the go-ahead goal on defenceman Pavel Kubina's slap shot 17:08 into the first, following Peter Regin's tying goal at the 7:29 mark of the first period.

The punchless Senators have now lost five straight games. During that span, they have scored a total of five goals.

Ottawa will play the Rangers in New York tomorrow.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHN AMIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thrashers goalie Ondrej Pavelec makes a save as Sens' centre Peter Regin vies for the puck during last night's action in Atlanta.

Sports in brief

NBA Two more Washington Wizards players are spending time speaking to authorities about the Gilbert Arenas gun investigation. Coach Flip Saunders said JaVale McGee and Mike Miller were called away yesterday, leaving the team with only eight players at practice. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Atlanta 6 OTTAWA 1
Carolina 4 Toronto 2
New Jersey 1 N.Y. Rangers 0 (SO)
N.Y. Islanders 6 Detroit 0
Philadelphia 6 Dallas 3
Tampa Bay 7 Washington 4
St. Louis 4 Columbus 1
Nashville at Edmonton
San Jose at Phoenix

TODAY'S GAMES
Vancouver at Minnesota
Washington at Florida
Pittsburgh at Calgary
Boston at Anaheim

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Charlotte 102 Houston 94
Detroit 99 Washington 90
San Antonio 105 L.A. Lakers 85
L.A. Clippers at Memphis
Orlando at Sacramento

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metro

More traffic restrictions for Vancouver

Olympic organizers in Vancouver announced further road closures yesterday for a city already bracing for transportation chaos. The most significant addition is the security closure of the Cambie Street bridge, one of the main arteries into the downtown core. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Driven by passion

Love of snowboarding motivates Maëlle Ricker

KRISTEN THOMPSON
Metro Canada

Snowboardcross athlete Maëlle Ricker is fast becoming a household name as she is touted as one of Canada's top gold-medal contenders for the 2010 Olympics.

But her drive to be faster and stronger isn't born of a perceived pressure to win a medal, but her simple love of being on the mountain.

"Winning isn't the motivating factor," she said.

"My love of snowboarding drives and motivates me.

"Sinking into a powder turn, airing out of the pipe, jumping cliffs in the backcountry and riding a race line that's on the edge all the way down a snowboardcross course are the reasons I'm in the start gate."

To win — and win at home on top of that — would simply be the cherry on the cake, she said.

Ricker, 31, was 19 when she competed in her first Olympics at the Nagano Games, and just missed a podium finish in snowboardcross in the 2006 Games in Turin.

In December, the native of Squamish, B.C., won her second consecutive women's snowboardcross race this season, bringing her to 28 podium wins — including 13 gold medals — on the FIS World Cup tour.

She said she's spending the next month snowboarding as much as possible and pushing her training — as she knows all her competitors are.

"I am focused on the process of training and competing and doing what I need to do day by day to still have fun and feel like I'm progressing."

Knowing that the country is behind her, she said, is an added bonus.

"I am very excited that I have such good support of Canadians. I still feel like the luckiest person whenever I strap my board to my feet," she said.

"I hope people will watch snowboarding and want to go play in the mountains afterwards. Ultimately, it's all about getting active and getting outside."

DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES

Maëlle Ricker takes a run during the FIS Snowboardcross World Cup qualifications Dec. 18, 2009, in Telluride, Colo.

Pound's remarks 'irresponsible,' says skating official

JUDGES It's irresponsible for Canadian IOC member Dick Pound to say figure skating judges could find themselves in a conflict of interest at the Vancouver Olympics, the head of Skate Canada said yesterday.

"It's clear to me he has not got a complete understanding of how the scoring system works now," William Thompson, Skate Canada's chief executive officer, told The Canadian Press. "Truthfully, I think those are irresponsible comments."

Pound said figure skating faces a potential problem because judges are appointed by national federations and not the sport's international governing body.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Opening ceremonies won't be 'traditional': Producer

SHOW He used horses in the opening ceremonies of the 2000 Sydney Olympics and elephants for the 2006 Asian Games.

But as for whether David Atkins will use moose for the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Games — you'll have to tune in to find out.

In one month, the world will be officially welcomed to the Vancouver Olympics in a multimillion-dollar opening ceremony taking place indoors for the first time.

While Atkins, the executive producer of the ceremonies, is now working 20 hours day pulling together everything from logistics to administration, rehearsals with the cast have gone so well that some of them have been cancelled.

"They've been great, they've been diligent, punctual and they're, I have to say, probably the most enjoyable bunch of volunteers I've ever worked with," he said in an interview with The Canadian Press.

Despite more than 4,000 people being involved, almost no details about the ceremony have leaked out.

"I have to say I'm very chuffed about that," he said.

"I think people have really bought into the fact that they don't want to ruin the surprise. This is something that everyone is waiting for and if they know what it is, that is going to really diminish the experience for everyone."

"We've been quite ambitious about what we're trying to do."
David Atkins, executive producer

He decided what would be in the ceremonies in part through consultations with 160 people in the cultural community, as well as First Nations. Atkins, an Australian, used the focus groups to determine what people did and did not want reflected in the spectacle.

Some themes, like indigenous history and linguistic duality, emerged in that process and in the vision of the ceremonies handed down by the Vancouver organizing committee, Atkins said.

"We've been quite ambitious about what we're trying to do," said Atkins.

"So it hasn't always been something that was readily assimilated by the audiences that we were proposing it to in the sense that it's not a traditional ceremony." THE CANADIAN PRESS

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ryan Blais soars through the air Sunday during qualifying for the men's aerials event at the World Cup freestyle skiing competition in Calgary.

Nervous time for athletes still trying to make team

ON THE BUBBLE As the clock ticks down to the opening of the Vancouver Winter Games, time is also slipping away for some athletes battling to earn a berth on Canada's Olympic team.

Ryan Blais, a freestyle aerials skier, is one of the athletes on the bubble. He needs good results in the next two World Cup events to earn a spot in Vancouver.

"I'm both anxious and nervous," Blais said yesterday. "It's going to happen on our team that there is going to be some athletes that are podium potential that will not qualify for the team.

"It's the nature of the beast."

The Canadian Freestyle Ski Team won't announce its Olympic selections until Jan. 25, just 17 days before the Games' opening ceremony Feb. 12.

Skate Canada will unveil its Olympic team Sunday, following the Canadian championships. Other sports still waiting to name their Olympic athletes include cross-country skiing (Jan. 22); biathlon and snowboarding (Jan. 25); ski jumping and nordic combined (Jan. 26); Alpine Canada and bobsled/skeleton (Jan. 27); and biathlon (Jan. 28).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ON DECEMBER 30TH, STEPHEN HARPER SHUT DOWN PARLIAMENT – OUT OF SELF-INTEREST.

While Canada was on the hot seat in Copenhagen because of Conservative failure on the environment, while Harper and his Conservatives were under attack for their cover-up in the Afghan torture scandal and while more than 1.6 million of Canadians are out of work and the deficit hit a new record, Stephen Harper thought he would sneak a fast one by you. He thought he could shut down Parliament while you weren't paying attention. What's Stephen Harper trying to hide? What's his *real* agenda? Why doesn't he want to face Parliament? **Liberals are working.**

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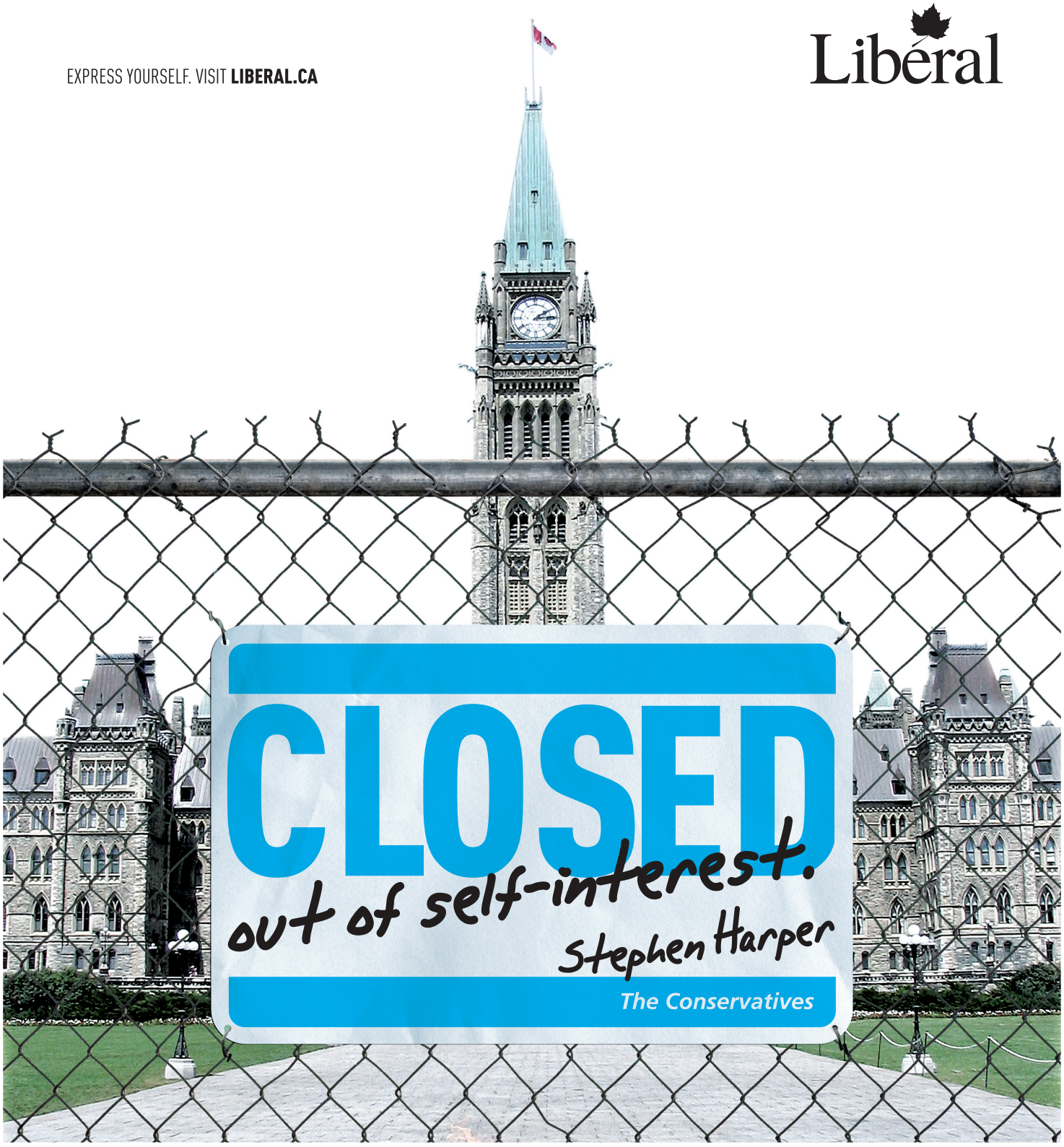

Student testimonials basis for uMontreal's new marketing campaign

The Université de Montréal has launched a new marketing campaign with colourful ads highlighting some frequently cited reasons students have for choosing uMontréal: Quality of education, focus on research, and openness to the world. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Getting the books to you

Visit Metronews.ca/work for an expanded Working at School feature that includes both the librarian profile below as well a profile on Dalia Procuta, a Ryerson University book-buyer. Working at different university book stores her whole life, she has some interesting stories to tell of her time spent with the printed page and the written word.

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Tech key for modern librarians

Working at School

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Librarians now have to be tech savvy and used to fast-paced environments, librarian Shawna Sadler says.

Information is power and helping students find information can be the most empowering act of all.

Shawna Sadler, 33, is a Technology Officer at the University of Calgary who heads the school's upcoming Taylor Family Digital Library. Sadler originally worked as an information architect in the web industry in the late 1990's but got trained as a librarian after working at UCal as a support staffer in the school's library system. She shatters the old stereotypes of the bookworm librarian and exemplifies the new paradigm of the tech-savvy, digitally-conscious information manager, digitizing more books than she catalogues and acting as a guide along the information highway rather than a gatekeeper.

"I'm interested in how technology improves the lives of people and the society they live in. You enable people to improve themselves. It's exciting, it's fun and it's hard but at the end of the day you've helped people," Sadler said.

When some students arrive on campus thinking research begins and ends with Googling something, Sadler takes pride in revealing how an immense wealth of information can be accessed with a variety of methods online and offline.

She says copyright issues still prove some of the biggest challenges in her job because changing laws around information and changing attitudes to acquiring it are often at odds with each other.

"Open, scholarly work is becoming more prominent and our job is to help students find information in all ways possible. Disseminating that information and getting it into the hands of our students is a challenge, it's still a bit of a minefield," Sadler said.

For more of the Working at School exclusive series check Workology every Wednesday or stop by: metronews.ca/work

Some essential tax tips for students

Tax season is around the corner and here are a few things students should know before they dive in:

Tuition Fees and Education Credits:

- Full- and part-time students may claim credits of 15 per cent of their eligible tuition fees. While full-time students may qualify for federal and provincial tax credits, part-time students and students with disabilities may be able to deduct related expenses toward education tax credits.
- Textbook tax credit: Students are eligible to receive a textbook tax credit.
- Full-time student education tax credit: Fifteen per cent of $65 each month.
- Part-time student education tax credit: Part-time student education tax credit: 15 per cent of $20 each month.

RRSPs:

- Students don't have to deduct an RRSP contribution in the year in which it was made. It can be carried forward until the student makes enough money to offset it.

Child Care:

Students may be eligible to claim expenses incurred for child care if:

- They spend at least 12 hours per month in a program lasting at least three consecutive weeks; or,
- Their spouse/common-law partner attends certain schools.

Housing and Transit:

- Students who live on their own might be eligible to claim the Ontario property tax credit or, if they live in residence, may be able to claim an occupancy cost of $25.

NEWS CANADA

Concordia student union demands Ottawa release Quebec portion of CSGP
In a news release issued Friday, Concordia University's student union condemned the federal government for the "mismanagement" of the new Canada Student Grants Program by withholding the Quebec portion of the grants. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Real rags to riches story for Dragon

Dragons' Den

Dianne Buckner
metronews.ca/dragonsden

It sounds like a Hollywood movie: A waiter becomes a salesman, then launches his own company, and becomes a multi-millionaire. But it's no imaginary tale. It's the true story of Robert Herjavec, the youngest Dragon on Dragons' Den, the one with the piercing blue eyes.

There's more true drama. Herjavec lived in a ramshackle house with a dirt floor in Croatia til he was 9. Then his family immigrated to Canada. As the opening montage of Dragons' Den illustrates, they came to Canada with just $20. Today Robert owns one of the biggest houses in Toronto, and regularly jets to a private holiday paradise in Miami.

How did he do it? "I put myself in a position where I could get an opportunity to win," says Herjavec. He thinks that's the key to success in the business world – always saying yes to opportunities, even if you're nervous, even if you don't feel quite ready.

He saw his opportunity while working selling "computer stuff," as he describes it. A customer had asked him for a specific security product, so Herjavec tracked it down. When he went to pick it up, the distributor happened to comment that computer security was the business of the future. Herjavec's instinct told him this was right — he decided he'd try to capitalize on that trend.

CBC PHOTO
Dragon Robert Herjavec visits his homeland Croatia standing in front of the house he grew up in.

"I named my first company Brak," he says, "because it's the Croatian word for wedding and honeymoon, and my wife and I had just gotten married".

Every dollar the company made he put back into the company, taking as little money as possible for himself. Turned out internet security did indeed have huge potential. Herjavec sold BRAK Systems ten years ago for $100 million. He sold his second for $200 million. His new company, The Herjavec Group, is thriving even through a shaky economy, partly because governments now require corporations to buy the type of security products Herjavec sells.

What does he think is the most important attribute a person can have, in order to do well at work? "Self discipline," says Herjavec. "For example, if you don't have the ability to be on time, I have no time for you."

Dianne Buckner is the host of Dragons' Den and the weekend anchor on the CBC News Network. Watch Dragons' Den at 8 p.m. tonight on CBC.

Workology in brief

RULING ALLOWS UVIC TO EVICT GRADUATE LIVING ON CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY SAYS: The University of Victoria says a recent B.C. Supreme Court ruling means it can evict a graduate still living in residence nearly 13 years after he graduated. In August 2008, uVic served Alkis Gerd'son, who has a disability, a one-month eviction notice, citing "default in rent" and "persistent violation of requirement to maintain enrolment status." Gerd'son's rent was paid by the B.C. government, but uVic applied the funds to overholding charges and not to rent.

CASE OF STOLEN TUITION FUNDS AT RED RIVER COLLEGE UNSOLVED: A theft of tuition funds from Red River College's Princess Street campus in Winnipeg last September remains unsolved. Police are investigating how someone was able to get past surveillance video and security guards to steal cash and cheques from a safe on campus. At the time of the theft it was reported that a few hundred thousand dollars may have been taken, but a college spokesman says this estimate was incorrect. Students who paid their tuition by cheque prior to the discovery of the theft were told to notify their banks to stop payment. The school's security systems and procedures have since been reviewed and revised, and an internal investigation is in progress.

ONTARIO MTCU SHUTS DOWN MARKHAM-BASED PRIVATE COLLEGE: The Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities has suspended registration of Mountains Institute of Technology, a Markham-based private career college, due to violations of the province's Private Career Colleges Act, including making misrepresentations to MTCU staff and failing to maintain programs as approved. Unable to operate as a private career college in the province, the institute cannot deliver vocational programs or solicit or accept applications from students.

UVIC BEGINS $43-MILLION RENOVATION PROJECT: Monday marked the official start of $42.5 million in renovations at the University of Victoria. The project involves upgrades to the university's Clearihue, Cunningham, Elliot, MacLaurin, Cornett, and University Centre buildings, all built between 1962 and 1978.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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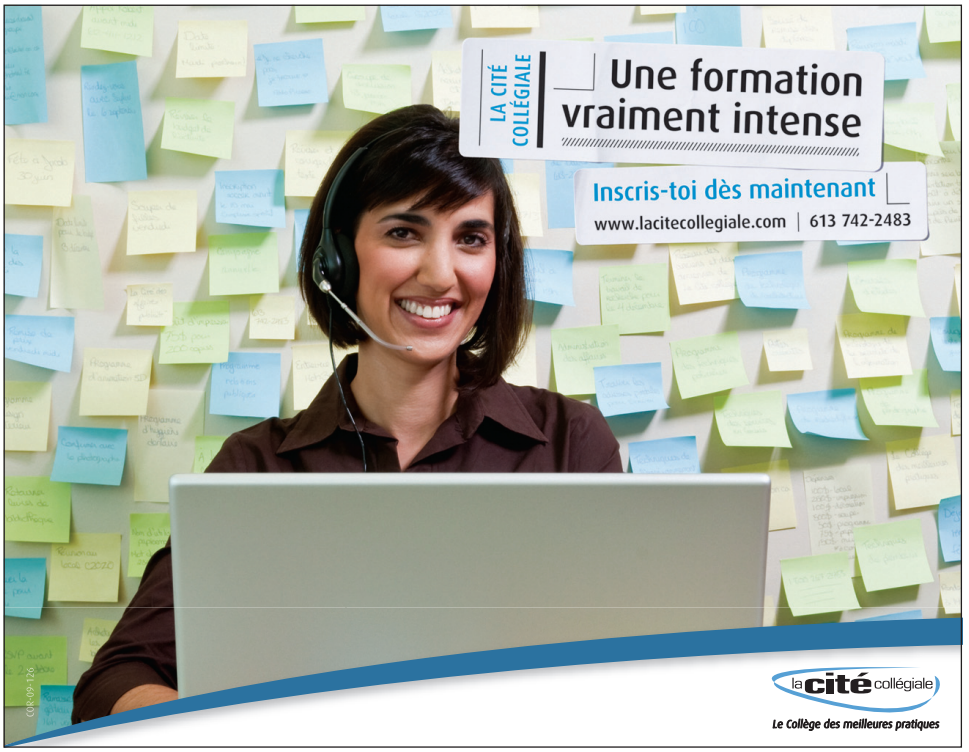

Ford's biggest display

Ford's display at the 2010 North American International Auto Show in Detroit is the automaker's biggest yet, with more than 54,000 square feet of new vehicle displays, 24 all-new interactive displays, and high-tech presentations including live driving demonstrations inside Cobo Center. CANADIANDRIVER.COM

Metro Drive

e-Tron in Detroit

After revealing an electric sports car based on the R8 at the recent Frankfurt Motor Show, Audi unveiled a second version of this car — called the e-Tron — at the Detroit auto show this week.
CANADIANDRIVER.COM

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Ridgeline redefines truck

Superior fuel economy, stylish interior prop Honda pickup

NEIL MOORE
for Metro Canada

With the 2010 Ridgeline's rugged unibody construction, there's no separation between the pickup bed and the cab, giving it a very solid looking, one-piece exterior.

When somebody says they're "not a truck person," I seldom take this as a snooty response to the idea of driving a "work" vehicle, but see this as one (or all) of three complaints:

- They've seen the interior of their roofer's stained and cigarette-burned 1978 F-150 and can't imagine being cradled in such 'luxury.'
- It's hard enough to manoeuvre and park in today's plaza and shopping mall lots without the added chore of finding a berth for the automotive equivalent of a Cunard liner.
- Buck-a-litre gas.

Need I say more?

One great way to get around all this is the 2010 Honda Ridgeline.

It's easy to dismiss the notion that current truck interiors don't deliver sedan-like comfort and amenities.

It's difficult, however, to counter the arguments against size and fuel economy — especially when some of today's full-size pickups are approaching and even exceeding 20 feet in length, not to mention slurping buckets of fuel in real world driving.

With these competing factors in mind, I approached the 2010 Honda Ridgeline wondering if it really could do just about anything a car, crossover or half-ton can do.

And after a week behind the wheel, I was not disappointed.

Perhaps the Ridgeline's best-known feature is its lockable and weather-resistant "in-bed trunk" that provides 241 litres of space below the cargo bed. It's surprisingly deep and provides enough space for three golf bags or a large load of groceries.

Throughout the Ridgeline's interior, there are a plethora of bins and cubbies, on the dash, roof liner, doors and between the seats.

Standard safety items include dual-stage, dual-threshold front airbags, front side airbags with passenger-side Occupant Position Detection System, side curtain airbags with rollover sensor and a tire pressure monitoring system with location indicators.

2010 Honda Ridgeline

Type: Mid-size pickup
Price: from $34,990
Engine: 3.5-litre, 24-valve, SOHC, VTEC V6
HP: 250
Torque: 247 lb/ft

Chevy offers remote starters

TECH With the country in the firm grip of winter, the scrunch, scrunch, scrunch sound of scraping ice from the windshield will leave most people cold — literally and figuratively.

On most 2010 Chevrolet models, a factory-installed remote start option makes winter temperatures a lot easier to take.

Remote start also can reduce overall emissions versus a cold-start drive-away because as the idling engine warms, it activates the catalyst that traps unburned hydrocarbons.

And no need to worry about a car thief jumping in and driving off. The vehicle doors are locked while remote start is running. Remote start runs for 10 minutes and then shuts off, unless the driver extends the time up to 20 minutes.

FROM CARGUIDE

In brief

DEBUT To celebrate Infiniti and its 20-year history as creator of performance cars and an inspiring exploration into the brand's future, the Infiniti Essence concept will make its Canadian debut at the 2010 Montreal Auto Show, which starts Friday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

No stopping Detroit party

AutoPilot
Michael Goetz
metronews.ca/autopilot

Considering how much upheaval there is in the auto industry at present, the 2010 North American International Auto Show, which kicked off Monday in Detroit, is surprisingly sane and upbeat.

The Detroit auto show continues to be a wondrous thing, and a great window into the North American vehicle market and its numerous storylines.

The "home" team's performance seems to always be the main story line, and GM and Ford were very solid, with many meaty, significant unveils (Ford Focus, Mustang GT, Buick Regal GS Concept, GMC Granite Concept, Cadillac CTS-V Coupe).

Chrysler on the other hand, didn't have an official press conference, indicative of its current holding pattern status until parent, Fiat, helps out with new product. But at least its display was somewhat interesting, with an upside Ram truck stuck on the ceiling, and a re-badged Lancia and an electric Fiat 500 to consider.

Among other reveals, Mercedes-Benz unveiled the show's first concept; some eye candy called "CLS Sculpture," which apparently signals how the brand might move away from its current wedge-like styling, to something more art deco-ish.

Toyota and Honda continue to work the hybrid angle.

Toyota showed FT-CH, a concept of a compact hybrid it might produce in a few years, and Honda showed the production-ready CR-Z, a smaller, lighter and sportier version of its Insight hybrid.

The continued diversification of hybrid and EV offerings, as well as the continued forays into "got-to-have-fun" vehicles (like the Mini Beachcomber concept and the Dodge Viper ACR 1:33), prove that major auto shows, like Detroit, are in no danger of becoming irrelevant — we may be moving to different propulsion methods, but the sheet metal we wrap around them will continue to be as diverse as they always have been.

PAUL SANCYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Buick Regal GS, top, and the Cadillac CTS-V Coupe were among cars unveiled at the Detroit auto show.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

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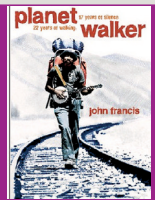
For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.gm.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. ♠No purchase necessary. Contest runs from January 12, 2010 at 9:00:00 a.m. (PST) to February 27, 2010 at 11:59:59 p.m. (PST) (the "Contest Period"). Residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority in their province or territory of residence and who possess a valid driver's license at the time of entry may enter this contest. Limit of one (1) entry per person. There are seventeen (17) Grand Prizes available to be won during the Contest Period, each consisting of the winner's choice of either a 2010 Chevrolet Equinox AWD LS (Approximate retail value: $27,140 CAD) or 2010 Chevrolet Traverse AWD LS (Approximate retail value: $29,215 CAD). One Grand Prize awarded per day for seventeen (17) days. Odds of winning depend on total number of entries received at the time of each daily draw. Correct answer to an arithmetical skill-testing question and completion of a mathematical skill-testing question within a reasonable time period is required. Contest open only to residents of Canada (excluding Quebec). Void in Quebec and where prohibited by law. Contest is governed by the Official Rules. For complete Official Rules, see www.retireyourride.ca. Skill-testing question: 2010 – 2009 = ? Chevrolet, Pontiac Buick GMC, Cadillac and Hummer models excluding all Saturn and Saabs models, Camaro, Express/Savana, Corvette Z51 and Medium Duty Trucks. ††Offer applies to the purchase of 2010 Chevrolet Malibu LS RTC/Traverse LS RTA/Silverado Ext. Cab 4WD RTA). ♦ ♦♦ ♦♦♦Freight ($1,350/$1,350/$1,350), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees are included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, administration fees and applicable taxes are not included. Offers apply as indicated with additional features at extra cost. Dealer may sell for less. Dealer may have to order vehicle. Limited time offer. ▼Vehicle must be returned to participating dealer within 60 days of delivery date. Vehicle must be in saleable condition. Excess wear and use charges may apply. Certain vehicles excluded. Other restrictions may apply. See dealer for details. ▼▼To qualify for GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers incentive, you must qualify for the Retire Your Ride Program, supported by the Government of Canada, and you must turn in a 1995 model or older vehicle that is in running condition and has been registered and insured for the last 6 months (12 months in B.C.). Upon Government confirmation of vehicle eligibility under the "Retire Your Ride Program", GM Canada will provide an incentive towards the purchase or lease of a new 2009 or 2010 GM vehicle. Vehicle must be delivered from dealer stock between January 12, 2010 and February 27, 2010. Vehicle must be registered in Canada in the name of the eligible person for at least 12 months. Vehicle must be insured and registered in the province of purchase. Vehicle must be driven to the dealership under its own power. Vehicle must be scrapped. Limit of one (1) GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers incentive per vehicle. Some conditions apply. Visit www.retireyourride.ca for more information. GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers offer may not be combined with certain other incentives available on GM vehicles, including the 60 Day Satisfaction Guarantee. See your participating GM dealer for additional program conditions and details. Residents of Northwest Territories, Yukon or Nunavut are excluded from the Government's Retire Your Ride program and are therefore ineligible for GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers incentive. Some conditions apply. Visit www.retireyourride.ca for more information. ▼▼To qualify for GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers incentive, you must qualify for the Retire Your Ride Program, supported by the Government of Canada, and you must turn in a 1995 model or older vehicle that is in running condition and has been registered and insured for the last 6 months (12 months in B.C.). Upon Government confirmation of vehicle eligibility under the "Retire Your Ride Program", GM Canada will provide an incentive towards the purchase or lease of a new 2009 or 2010 GM vehicle. Vehicle must be delivered from dealer stock between January 12, 2010 and February 27, 2010. Vehicle must be registered in Canada in the name of the eligible person for at least 12 months. Vehicle must be insured and registered in the province of purchase. Vehicle must be driven to the dealership under its own power. Vehicle must be scrapped. Limit of one (1) GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers incentive per vehicle. Some conditions apply. Visit www.retireyourride.ca for more information. ▼Vehicle must be returned to participating dealer within 60 days of delivery date. Vehicle must be in saleable condition. Excess wear and use charges may apply. Certain vehicles excluded. Other restrictions may apply. See dealer for details

JFK runway to shut down
The largest runway at John F. Kennedy International Airport will be shut down in March for renovations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel



Walking the planet

He walked across the Pacific Northwest, crossed the Sierra and Rocky Mountains, and traversed America from coast to coast. Read about how John Francis tuned back into his life in the book Planet Walker ($20). METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Super Bowl hurricane set to hit Florida

From Miami up to Fort Lauderdale bracing for the year's biggest party scene

This year's Super Bowl is in Miami but all South Florida wants to play.

The region's three international airports give visitors the flexibility to try a variety of beaches, restaurants and social scenes on the mainland and south into the Florida Keys, said Rodney Barreto, chairman of the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee.

"It's not a bad place to be entertained while you're waiting for the big game," he says.

More than 70,000 ticketholders are expected to attend the game, while more than 40,000 extra people will likely show up just for the parties and extracurricular activities, Barreto said. Many will extend their trips to include the Pro Bowl, also being played in Miami, on Jan. 31. Here's a sampling of what they'll find across South Florida:

Football festivities

The big game doesn't kick off until 6 p.m. on Feb. 7, but the pre-gaming starts days earlier. A Feb. 3 fishing tournament in Miami, organized by the host committee, honours Oakland Raiders linebacker Marquis Cooper, free-agent NFL defensive lineman Corey Smith and former South Florida player William Bleakley, who died last year when their boat overturned off the coast of Florida. Former NFL coach Jimmy Johnson hosts the Billfish Bowl, Feb. 4 to 6 in Key Largo; the sailfish tournament, billfishbowl.com, benefits Gridiron Greats, an organization helping retired football players with their medical costs.

Only VIP tickets remain for the Taste of the NFL fundraiser for hunger-relief groups on Feb. 6 in Fort Lauderdale. Taste of the NFL invites one chef from each city with an NFL team to cook with the help of an alumni player (tasteofthenfl.com). A Super Sunday Brunch is planned Feb. 7 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Hollywood.

Sightseeing

Let's be honest: People come to South Florida to see and be seen. Score an outside table at one of the restaurants on Lincoln Road in South Beach and watch shoppers, dog-walkers and beach-goers traipse by. Lounge chairs for rent on the beach offer a comfortable view of Miami Beach's best-known tourist attraction: people wearing next to nothing. NFL cheerleaders will show off their, um, skills in a beach competition Jan. 29 in Fort Lauderdale.

Locals and tourists swarm beneath the neon hotel lights on beachfront Ocean Drive in South Beach. A less glitzy strip of hotels and motels is worth a drive across the causeway downtown: the MiMo Biscayne Boulevard Historic District,

Natural Florida

Winter is the most comfortable time of year to visit the Florida Everglades. The best way to traverse its swamps and sawgrass is by air boat. Tiny Coopertown — with just eight residents — is a tourism hub with air boat tours, a restaurant that serves Everglades delicacies such as frog legs, and an exhibit housing more than a dozen live alligators. (book a tour at coopertownairboats.com). A tram carries visitors around a paved, 24-kilometre loop at the Shark Valley Visitors Center in Everglades National Park (sharkvalleytramtours.com). Bicycles can also take you around the loop, but beware the speed bumps — those are alligators.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Grab an open-air table along the Miami strip scene to be seen during Super Bowl weekend.

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Caesar's launching new iPhone app
Casino officials at Caesar's Palace say they are launching a new iPhone app and allowing guests to check into the Las Vegas Strip resort through text messaging. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winter is perfect in Pacific Northwest

Midwinter's a fine time to daydream about summer backpacking. But if you want to stay at Washington's Enchantment Lakes — and it seems that much of the backpacking world does — you need to wake up and get moving.

Spending the night at one of the most beautiful high-country spots in the Northwest takes hard work, planning and more than a little luck.

You'll need to climb steep, rocky, sometimes slippery trails. You'll almost certainly need to win a lottery for a permit.

And you need to hurry — the U.S. Forest Service has moved up the window for the permit applications by three weeks to Feb. 1-8.

Every backpacker has favourite camping spots. But for most who ramble in this corner of the country, the Enchantments are on the must-do list.

And that's been the problem. The extremely fragile and, well, enchanting string of lakes nestled in glacier-polished rock in the Cascades are so popular the Forest Service strictly limits the number allowed to camp there — on average, about 60 people can stay each night. Demand is such and to give everyone a fair chance, it has a somewhat complex lottery system for issuing the special permits, which are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain for particular dates.

The Enchantments are about 120 kilometres east of Seattle in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Crystalline, ice-cold lakes with names like Perfection, Inspiration, Tranquil and Isolation dot a compact, three-kilometre-long basin rimmed by the jagged ridges of Little Annapurna and Prusik, McClellan and Dragontail peaks.

As late as the 1920s, much of the basin above 2,286 metres was covered by glaciers, and plants are only now pioneering rock exposed when the ice receded.

In the lower reaches, there's just enough soil for low shrubs, berry bushes, twisted trees and wildflowers to exploit the few weeks of summer.

You might find a family of mountain goats sharing the narrow trail. Not exactly tame, they seem willing to tolerate visitors as long as they behave themselves.

Reaching paradise is supposed to take effort and the Enchantments are no exception. There are two trails in. From the east, the Snow Lake route climbs about 1,676 metres in 16 kilometres. The Colchuck Lake trail from the northwest gains 1,341 metres in a little about 10 kilometres, but half of that comes in around one kilometre in the final trudge to Aasgard Pass.

Rich Haydon, wilderness resource manager with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, says that despite the sweat required, it's still a relatively short hike to spectacular scenery above the timberline. For some, he says, "A winter trip to go up there to ski would seem reasonable and for other people the middle of summer's too much."

Critical is knowing which one you are. For most people, Haydon says, June and early July before the snow clears is too early.

Late July through August is the prime season, and while autumn can be beautiful, expect snow by mid-September.

Travelling from lake to lake can require scrambling up rock fields or inching across boulders. People have died doing that. On the basin's east side, you must cross smooth granite that quickly tapers from steep to vertical — "horrible with a few inches of new snow," Haydon says.

Overnight permits are required June 15 through Oct. 15. Last year, Haydon says, about 1,400 group applications were received by the March deadline, about double the number from a decade earlier. Of those, about a third got a permit for the "Core Enchantments," the actual high-country basin, another third got to stay at lakes within day-hiking range and the rest didn't get anything.

Adding the small number of permits set aside for daily drawings at the Leavenworth ranger station, about 8,000 people were allowed to camp last season at the Enchantments or nearby lakes. About 3,000 made the trip as a day hike.

Applications can't be postmarked before Feb. 1 and must arrive by Feb. 8. Haydon says all go into a great big box and are drawn randomly.

He says most people understand the need for the limits as well as strict "Leave No Trace" rules to prevent crowds, chaos and the "beat-up look" before the wilderness area was created in the 1970s.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steep, rocky and slippery trails mark Washington's Enchantment Lakes.

Be prepared

- Unless you're a skilled climber or athlete, for average folks this is a tough, steep, and potentially dangerous trip. Have good gear, be ready for snow and be smart enough to bail before you get into trouble.

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Amtrak goes wireless
Amtrak's Acela Express trains, which run from Washington to Boston, will soon be getting wireless Internet access. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO HOCKEY POOL STANDINGS*

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NAME	LOCATION	GP	G	A	PTS
1. Joanne Doiron	NB, CA	574	232	346	578
2. Kyle Turk	NS, CA	603	259	315	574
3. Christian Gagnon	NB, CA	577	232	339	571
3. Jean-Paul Osborne	QC, CA	596	233	338	571
3. Shawn Tschritter	AB, CA	593	231	340	571
6. Brian B	AB, CA	592	236	334	570
7. Cole Warren	NS, CA	584	206	359	565
7. Jonathon Gremsperger	BC, CA	599	241	324	565
9. Feroz Mir	ON, CA	594	224	334	558
9. Steve Ferguson	ON, CA	593	235	323	558
11. Tom Collier	NS, CA	608	252	305	557
12. Paula Almeida-Stille		592	234	321	555
12. Stephen Stille	ON, CA	592	234	321	555
14. Matty Strathearn	NS, CA	602	236	318	554
15. Brad Goertz	BC, CA	570	196	357	553

* Results exclude Quebec

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Bizarre accommodations provide a unique stay

Sometimes you want a hotel that is just that little bit different. And sometimes you want a hotel which is utterly bonkers. Well, look no further because we've rounded up our favourite five hotels that are so different they're bordering on the disturbed.

Costa Verde is a 1965 Boeing 727 hoisted to the top of the Costa Rican jungle and converted into a twin suite hotel.

Euromast If you fancy sleeping 100m above the streets of Rotterdam, rocking gently (if worryingly) in the wind, then the Euromast is definitely for you.

The concrete TV mast was built in 1960 and has since become a unique two-suite hotel with a swinging '60s designer feel and surprisingly great restaurant.

Balconies overlooking either the port or the city, depending which suite you chose, and an all round other-worldly feel. You can even abseil to breakfast. euromast.nl

50 Years of Victory The 50 Years of Victory is an ex-Soviet nuclear powered icebreaker — the biggest one ever built. Expect Cold-War utility rather than western decadence. Its 75,000 horsepower twin nuclear reactors will smash through three meter thick pack ice — handy, as its main vacation route is from Helsinki to the North Pole. alvoyages.com

Costa Verde It doesn't really get much more surreal than this. A 1965 Boeing 727 hoisted to the top of the Costa Rican jungle and converted into a twin suite hotel, complete with monkeys, toucans and a 100 per cent teak interiors. If you've seen the crazy lemurs home in the movie Madagascar you'll get the idea. Brilliant. costaverde.com

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Honolulu $699
Travel Mar 9 - Mar 23/aa + taxes & fees $30

Buenos Aires $799
Travel Mar 9 - Mar 23/ua + taxes & fees $410

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Bangkok $1149
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Carnival Imagination + taxes & fees $48*
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Western Caribbean 5-Night Cruise $209
Celebrity Century + taxes & fees $96
CRUISE roundtrip Miami and visit Key West & Grand Cayman. Sails Feb 1/cel.

Southern Caribbean 7-Night Cruise $549
Adventure of the Seas + taxes & fees $45
CRUISE roundtrip San Juan and visit Aruba, Curacao, Dominica & St Thomas. Sails Mar 21/rcl.

Greek Islands 7-Night Cruise $784
Norwegian Gem + taxes & fees $77
CRUISE roundtrip Venice and visit Split, Corfu, Santorini, Mykonos & Crete. Sails May 22/ncl.

Mediterranean 7-Night Cruise $784
Norwegian Jade + taxes & fees $112
CRUISE roundtrip Barcelona and visit Monte Carlo, Florence/Livorno, Rome/Civitavecchia, Naples & Palma. Sails May 30/ncl.

Hawaiian Islands 7-Night Cruise $917
Pride of America + taxes & fees $108
CRUISE roundtrip Honolulu and visit Maui (overnight), Big Island (Hilo & Kona) and Kauai (overnight). Sails Apr 24/ncl.

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Mercure Playa de Oro + taxes & fees $205
Departs Jan 22/swg/wg.

Santa Clara 7 Nights 4-Star $548
Sol Cayo Santa Maria + taxes & fees $195
Departs Jan 21/sgn/c6.

Cayo Coco 7 Nights 4-Star $558
Oasis Playa Coco + taxes & fees $195
Departs Jan 21/sgn/5g.

Puerto Vallarta 7 Nights 4-Star $658
Holiday Inn + taxes & fees $262
Departs Jan 21/vat/5g.

Jamaica 7 Nights 4-Star $725
Sunset Beach Resort and Spa + taxes & fees $266
INCLUDES oceanview accom. Departs Jan 22/swg/wg.

Cancun 7 Nights 4-Star $735
Oasis Cancun + taxes & fees $272
Departs Jan 21/swg/wg.

Bahamas 5 Nights 4-Star $819
Breezes Bahamas + taxes & fees $127
Departs Jan 22/wsv/ws.

Vacations

Orlando Family Special Air + 7 Nights $139◊*
Champions World Resort + taxes & fees $236
Departs Jan 22/ggv/ts.

Fort Lauderdale Air + Car $389
+ taxes & fees $149
INCLUDES 7-day car rental with unlimited mileage to explore the Florida coast. Travel Jan 27 - Feb 3/ggv/ws.

Scottsdale Air + 3 Nights $499
Hospitality Suite Resort + taxes & fees $116
Departs Jan 25/ggv/dl.

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Hawai'i Island Combo Air + 7 Nights $1229
Ohana Waikiki West & Outrigger Royal Kahana + taxes & fees $110
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North Dakota looks for tourist help
North Dakota's tourism is looking for photos, videos and reviews from visitors. State tourism director Sara Otte Coleman says it's part of developing North Dakota's "I Am Legendary" tourism theme. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Da Vinci hits Olympics

An important set of anatomical drawings by Leonardo da Vinci is being loaned by the Queen to the Vancouver Art Gallery for display during the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

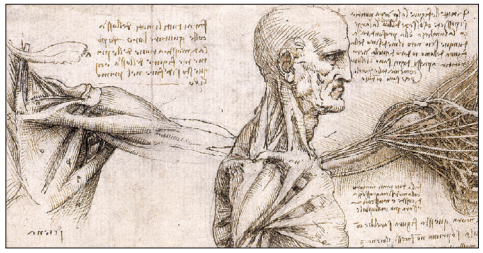
It is the first time ever that all the drawings of Leonardo's Anatomical Manuscript A, part of the Royal Collection, have been on public view, the gallery says.

The manuscript, a treatise on the human body featuring 240 of Leonardo's pen and ink drawings, was way ahead of its time, says the gallery.

"Virtually every drawing is the finest depiction of a particular structure to that date and, in some cases, for several centuries to come," says curator Martin Clayton of the Royal Collection.

In the 1480s Leonardo began planning a treatise on what was the main subject of Renaissance artists - the human body, says the gallery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE PHOTO

Da Vinci's drawings of the human body will be on display during the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver.

World War II battleship re-opens

HISTORY The battleship where officials from Japan and the Allied Forces signed surrender documents ending the Second World War is reopening after three months of maintenance and repairs.

The former USS Missouri, now called the Battleship Missouri Memorial, came out of drydock last week and will start welcoming visitors again onFriday.

The ship is located in Pearl Harbor, moored a few hundred metres from the USS Arizona, a battleship that sank when Japan attacked Dec. 7, 1941, forcing the U.S. into the war.

The surrender documents were signed on the Missouri's deck on Sept. 2, 1945, in Tokyo Bay.

The Missouri also served in the Korean and Persian Gulf wars before being decommissioned in 1992. The memorial opened in January 1999.

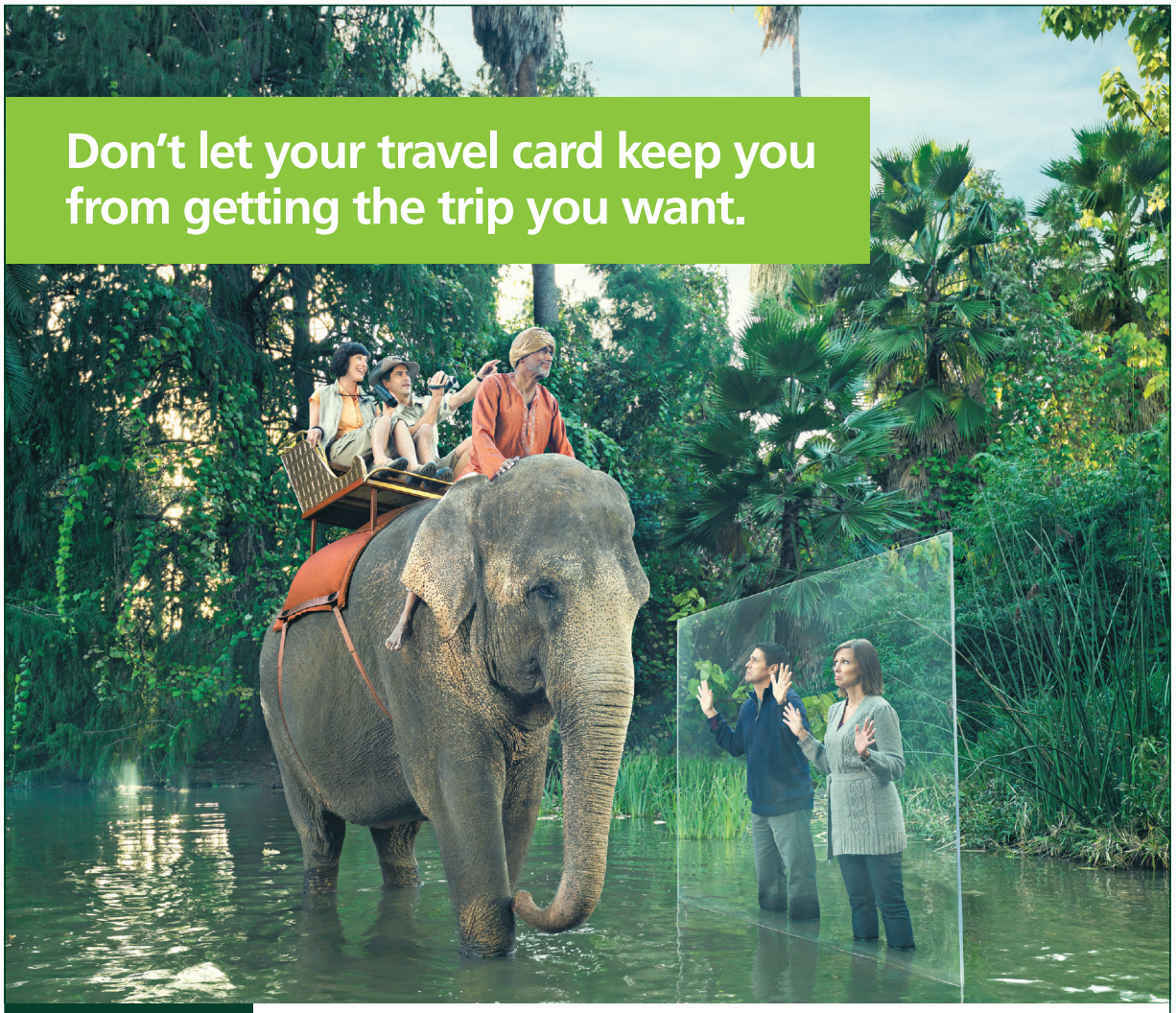
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snow at first sight lists winners

COLD WEATHER People who have never experienced snow before are about to get their chance.

The Colorado Tourism Office announced three winners from its "Snow at First Sight" contest: Trevor Allison, 21, from Atlanta, Ga., Deena Bright, 30, from Hawaii, and Ruchu Adhikary, 25, from Melbourne, Australia.

Applicants were asked to submit videos explaining why they should win. The three winning snow virgins get an expenses-paid, three-month trip to Colorado from January through March. With help from local instructors and guides, contest winners will sample winter activities like snowmobiling, skiing, snowshoeing, dogsledding, the all-important apres ski cocktail hour. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Bachelor/Bachelorette spin-off

Old rivalries and dramas from past seasons of The Bachelor and The Bachelorette will get new life this year as ABC is creating a spin-off show in which former contestants will live and compete together in a Big Brother-style house. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

Fox in Armani

Giorgio Armani has unveiled the first images of Megan Fox appearing nearly-nude in its official worldwide Emporio Armani Women's Underwear and Armani Jeans 2010 campaign. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Chan shows his domestic side

Action star proves he's got acting chops too

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

In his latest stunt-filled movie, The Spy Next Door, Jackie Chan adds a new element to his usual bag of tricks: A love interest.

In the film — opening Friday — Chan stars as a retired spy trying to woo a single mother and win over her three young children when his old job comes back to haunt him. Chan talked to Metro about working with kids, dealing with new technology and why you won't see him doing a nude scene anytime soon.

Q How was it working with the kids?

A Difficult. On the set sometimes, I'd want to take a rest for 20 minutes, but then it's, "Jackie, I want to learn some karate," "Jackie, I want to do this," "Show me magic." I had prepared all these tricks to entertain them. It's not easy being a babysitter. Besides, I have to protect them on the set, with all the action sequences. I make sure everybody's safe, especially the children. I have to be very careful.

Q How important is it to vary the types of films you make?

A I think for the last 10 years, you can see there are different Jackie Chans. In Japan, I made a very heavy drama called Shinjuku Incident — not for children. I wanted to let the audiences see what I can do. After that, I made The Spy Next Door, then a black comedy, then the Karate Kid. I want the audience to know I'm a true actor who can fight, not a fighter who can act. Just like Robert De Niro. I want to be an actor. An actor can work forever. An action star's life is very short.

Q Do advances in special effects make your job easier?

A Yes and no. I want to learn some things about special effects. Last year or two years ago, I cannot remember, I visited James Cameron's set for Avatar. I've been making movies for 47 years. After I looked at his set, I was just like a kid in kindergarten. You give me all that technology, I don't know how to use it. That's why I film the basic things. Simple, two cameras. So all those years I've just been doing Jackie Chan-style action. I would like to do these kinds of things, but I can't.

Q Would you want to learn all that new technology?

A I'm too old. I don't have time to learn these kinds of things. By the time I know everything, I'm 90. So I'd rather do my own things. I think audiences still accept my kind of style. If they say, "Oh, we don't like it. Everybody wants a James Cameron picture," then OK, I might hire somebody who knows these kinds of things to shoot me.

Q This is the first time you've had a serious love interest in a movie.

A Finally, yes. In my movies, we don't have kissing scenes or making love scenes. We don't have those kinds of things. I don't think audiences want to see Jackie Chan naked or making love. And also there are so many children watching my movies. A small kissing scene is OK. But I would rather do action sequences.

Renowned martial artist and actor Jackie Chan takes on a role that includes a love interest and kids in The Spy Next Door. The film features Chan as a retired spy trying to woo a single mother.

The Spy Next Door opens in theatres on Friday

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Stephen Sondheim

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Golden Globes are this Sunday

Paul McCartney, Reese Witherspoon and Harrison Ford will be presenters at Sunday's Golden Globes awards show. Ricky Gervais will host the 67th annual awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Strong, but losing ground

With Cowell leaving , American Idol faces challenges

With Simon Cowell's days numbered and Paula Abdul already gone, this season is shaping up to be the end of an era for the most-popular show in the United States, Fox's American Idol.

But when it comes to living up to its title — creating a superstar act that captures the imagination of millions — the power of Idol has been ebbing for years. (The new season of Idol started last night.)

While the show produced multiplatinum sensations in its earlier days, starting with Kelly Clarkson and ending with Carrie Underwood, recent Idol winners or runners-up have not had similar chart success.

Kris Allen, last year's champion, has sold about 200,000 copies of his debut album. And while his Idol runner-up, Adam Lambert, proved to be more popular and controversial, even his debut hasn't stayed at the top of the charts for long.

"When you start thinking about American Idol as a place that feeds the music business, it's not as much as people think it is," said Howard Benson, who produced the first two CDs for Idol finalist Chris Daughtry's multiplatinum band, Daughtry. "It's fallen off."

Of course, "fallen off" is all relative when you're talking about a show that's been the undisputed ratings champion since it debuted in 2003. It has produced millions and millions in albums sales, Grammy Awards and even an Oscar winner in Jennifer Hudson, who is also a Grammy winner and successful recording artist. Even the also-rans of "Idol" have managed to parlay a stint on the show into career success.

"It is by far still the most watched show on TV — even more watched in some years than the Academy Awards and the Grammys or anything like that" says Ann Donahue, senior editor at Billboard magazine.

"But actually translating those people who watch the show into buying albums remains difficult."

Like the rest of the music industry, Idol is battling a decline in music sales. But even taking that into account, the drop-off in sales and buzz for Idol winners is telling.

When Clarkson became the show's first winner in 2003, her album, Thankful, debuted at No. 1 and sold a healthy 297,000 copies, and had hits like A Moment Like This and Miss Independent. It went on to sell 2.7 million copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

The next year, champ Ruben Studdard sold 1.8 million and had the hit Sorry 2004. Clay Aiken, that year's runner-up, did even better, selling 2.7 million copies of his CD Measure of a Man.

Studdard was followed by Fantasia, whose Free Yourself also sold 1.8 million and had the R&B hit Free Yourself. Underwood established herself as the show's most successful winner — her country debut sold nearly seven million copies with major crossover hits like Jesus Take the Wheel and Before He Cheats.

But the next winner, Taylor Hicks, was a major disappointment, selling 700,000 copies of his self-titled debut. Jordin Sparks followed with a platinum self-titled debut CD and hit songs, while David Cook had a platinum CD, also self-titled but without the hits. This year, Idol champ Kris Allen released his self-titled CD to little fanfare.

It didn't debut at the top of the charts and now sits at No. 91 on Billboard's Hot 200 albums chart and hasn't generated a top hit thus far.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Simon Cowell

Kelly Clarkson

Jennifer Hudson

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SECOND CUP

Polanski sues over photos

LAWSUIT The news snapshot shows Roman Polanski standing at a window, a thin slice of his face visible amid an opening in the curtains. The French paper that printed the photo saw it as a newsworthy depiction of the director's life under house arrest in his Swiss Alpine chalet.

Lawyers for the Chinatown director say that the December 2009 photo and many others invaded his privacy as well as his family's, and he and his wife are suing four French publications, two newspapers and two magazines for a total of about $224,000 US.

Roman Polanski

In a hearing yesterday, Polanski lawyer Marion Gregoire said the suits were an attempt to put an urgent stop to the media spotlight on the filmmaker and his family that has intensified in the months since a 32-year-old sex case against him was revived.

"The legal case against Polanski in no way justifies the paparazzi's stalking of his wife and children," Gregoire said.

Polanski's had lived for three decades before he was arrested in September on a U.S. warrant while en route to a Swiss film festival. He spent more than 60 days in detention in a Swiss jail before being transferred to house arrest in his Swiss vacation home. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vatican slams Avatar for eco-spiritualism message

MOVIES The Vatican newspaper and radio station have called the film Avatar simplistic and criticized it for flirting with modern doctrines that promote the worship of nature as a substitute for religion.

L'Osservatore Romano and Vatican Radio dedicated ample coverage to James Cameron's big-grossing, 3-D spectacle. But the reviews were lukewarm, calling the movie superficial in its eco-message, despite groundbreaking visual effects.

L'Osservatore said the film "gets bogged down by a spiritualism linked to the worship of nature." Similarly, Vatican Radio said it "cleverly winks at all those pseudo-doctrines that turn ecology into the religion of the millennium."

"Nature is no longer a creation to defend but a divinity to worship," the radio said. A Vatican spokesperson said that

"Nature is no longer a creation to defend, but a divinity to worship."
Vatican Radio

while the movie reviews are just that — film criticism, with no theological weight — they do reflect Pope Benedict XVI's views on the dangers of turning nature into a "new divinity."

In a recent World Day of Peace message, the pontiff warned against any notions that equate human person and other living things. He said such notions "open the way to a new pantheism tinged with neo-paganism, which would see the source of man's salvation in nature alone."

The Vatican newspaper occasionally likes to comment in its cultural pages on movies or pop culture icons.

In one famous instance, several Vatican officials spoke out against The Da Vinci Code. In this case, the reviews came out after a red carpet preview held in Rome just a stone's throw from St. Peter's Square.

The story of the tall blue creatures who inhabit Pandora and contend with humans intent on grabbing the resources of their planet has made over $1.1 billion at box offices worldwide. Partly boosted by higher 3-D ticket prices, Avatar looks well on its way to becoming the biggest grossing movie of all time. "So much stupefying, enchanting technology, but few genuine emotions," said L'Osservatore Romano, which devoted three articles to Avatar" in its Sunday editions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLUB METRO WEEKLY REWARDS

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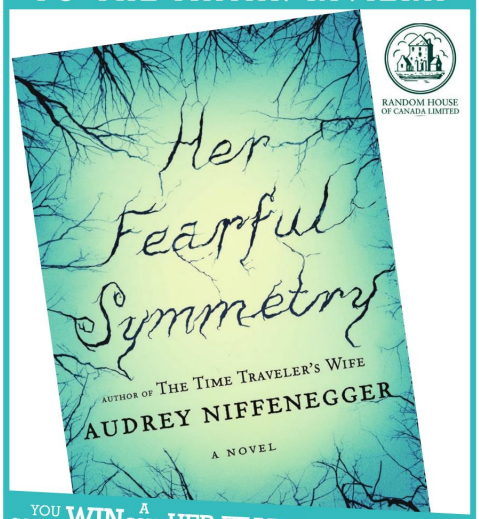

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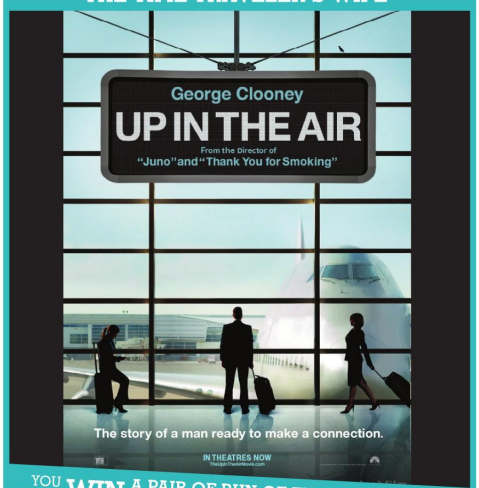

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Dodging an awkward social bullet

Jennifer Aniston won't have to avoid ex Brad Pitt at next Sunday's Golden Globe Awards. Neither Pitt nor Jolie will be in attendance at the event. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

STAN LEE isn't much of a negotiator, **JESSICA SIMPSON** is having one heck of a new year, **SARAH SILVERMAN** is thinking of others in need, and **"WEIRD" AL YANKOVIC** is having trouble adjusting to 2010.

@smilinstanlee My mind wanders at business meetings. Everyone's discussing budgets and I'm wondering why that guy's wearing such a funny looking tie.

@JessicaSimpson Something about 2010 makes me feel like a child again..enchanted places with brighter colors turning my dreams into a vivid picture book :)

@SarahKSilverman I'm hungry. Like, I'm getting super peckish. But it humbles me because I realize like, this is what life's like in Darfur all the time.

@alyankovic It's already the second week of January and I'm still writing 1983 on my checks.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Set to say 'I do' again?

DIDN'T THE LAST MARRIAGE TEACH YOU ANYTHING? Paul McCartney is reportedly making secret preparations to marry U.S. heiress Nancy Shevell, female-first.co.uk reports.

The Beatles legend is said to be keen to tie the knot for a third time with Shevell, his girlfriend of nearly two years, and organized a family meet up in the Caribbean earlier this month to discuss their future together with his children.

"Paul and Nancy's relationship is rock solid and there's no mad hurry for a wedding," a friend of the 67-year-old musician told the Daily Express newspaper. "Next year has certainly been mentioned as the most likely time, but neither of them want some big deal made out of it.

"It's almost certainly going to be done very discreetly over in the U.S. and Paul would ideally like to do it without any publicity beforehand, but whether he could pull that off is another matter."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

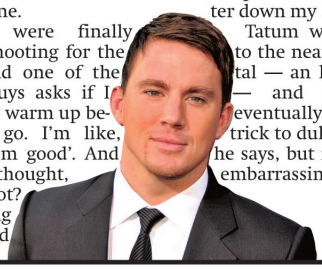
Channing's scalding hot incident

IT'S NOT FUNNY, REALLY In the February issue of Details, actor Channing Tatum, 29, opens up about surviving a painful accident that caused severe burns to his penis, people.com reports.

The incident happened when he was shooting the drama The Eagle of the Ninth last October in the freezing cold Scottish Highlands.

"The only way to keep warm was by pouring a mix of boiling water and river water down your suit," Tatum, 29, tells the magazine.

"We were finally done shooting for the day, and one of the crew guys asks if I want to warm up before I go. I'm like, 'Nah, I'm good'. And then I thought, Why not?



"Thing is, he'd forgotten to dilute the kettle water," he continues. "So he poured scalding water down my suit."

Tatum was rushed to the nearest hospital — an hour away — and morphine eventually did the trick to dull the pain, he says, but it was still embarrassing.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

primetime

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
1/13/10	265	353	2	TVO	Meerkat Manor (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		New Tricks "Fresh Starts"		Human Edge		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones (HDTV) (N)		Kitchen Nightmares		Melrose Place "Canon"		News Hour
	-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)	L'Épicerie	Le Moment de vérité (SC)		Mirador (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Le Téléjournal Nouvelles. (SC)		La Zone (SC)
	209	342	6	CHRO	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	Old Christine	The Middle (N)	*Meet the Fockers* ★★ (2004, Comedy) Robert De Niro.				Comedy Now
	196	311	7	CTV	etalk	Access H.	American Idol (HDTV) (N)			TBA	CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		CTV News
	208	303	8	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragons' Den (HDTV) (N)		Republic of Doyle (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Mercy "We're All Adults"		Law & Order: Special Victims		The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	117	713	10	TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Les Gags	Destinées (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Dieu Merci (HDTV) (SC)		TVA nouvelles	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	-	-	11	QS	Merlin "La Vérité" (N) (SC)		Flashpoint (SC)		Terminator: Les Chroniques		Guerre clans	L'Attaque à 5	À comm
	137	763	12	TFO	Panorama		L'Odyssée sibérienne		*Le Fataliste* (2006, Comédie) Rogério Samora, André Gomes.				Expression
	-	362	13	CBS	The Insider (N)	Judge Brown	Old Christine	Unmarried	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		Two/Half Men
	216	395	14	OMN2	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: Special Victims		Mercy "We're All Adults"		Modern Family	Cougar Town	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Look I Cook
	218	345	18	CHCH	*Black Beauty* ★★★ (1994, Adventure) Sean Bean, Jim Carter.				*Buffalo Soldiers* ★★★ (2001, Comedy-Drama), Ed Harris				News at 11 (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	Action News	Entertainment	Modern Family	The Middle (N)	Modern Family	Cougar Town	(10:01) Ugly Betty (N)		News
	512	396	24	CPAC	Audiences du CRTC		Heure polit.	L'Heure politique				Tête-à-tête	Podium
	651	355	25	CTS	Little House on the Prairie		Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman		100 Huntley Street		Life Today	This Is Day	John Hagee
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	American Idol (HDTV) (N)			The Simpsons	FOX 2 News (N)		News
	-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.	From the Top	The Human Spark (DVS)		Great Performances "Passing Strange" A man searches for his identity.				
	205	312	104	CTV	etalk	Access H.	American Idol (HDTV) (N)			TBA	CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		CTV News
news	502	390	26	NW	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		Badge of Pride (N)		National
	500	500	33	CNN	CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
sports	406	417	27	net	Skiing FIS Freestyle Moguls.		Best Damn Top 50 Special		The Ultimate Fighter (HDTV)		Sportsnet Connected		Prime Time
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes (SC)		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Billiards: Trick Shots	Hockey		NHL Pregame	NHL Hockey Pittsburgh Penguins at Calgary Flames.			
	410	403	52	SCR	College Basketball Boston College at Duke. (Live)				College Basketball Kansas at Nebraska. (Live)				Score Now
family	411	457	56	OLN	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destination Truth		Operate-Repo	Operate-Repo	Ghost Hunters Academy		Destin. Truth
	417	406	59	SC	Pass Time	NASCAR Hub	Dangerous Drives (HDTV)		Pass Time	Pass Time	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pass Time
	554	544	48	TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	557	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	551	542	65	YTV	iCarly	That's-Weird	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	570	580	29	MM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Gene Simmons	Gene Simmons	Entourage	Wild 'n Out	mmtop10.ca
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal
	628	584	32	SPKE	UFC's Ultimate Fight Night				Ways to Die	Ways to Die	Ways to Die	MANswers (N)	Disorderly
	521	560	34	TLC	Emergency Level One		Emergency Level One		Emergency Level One		Brace for Impact		Emergency
	145	761	35	TV5	Adopte-moi		*Enfin veuve* (2008) Jacques Gamblin, Michèle Laroque.				À Table	Mixeur	TV5 Le Journal
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*The Perfect Neighbor* (2005, Suspense) Perry King.				HawthoRNe (N)		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	Death at-Opera	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	O'Reagan File	Wingfield	Star Portraits	White Collar "All In"		Law & Order
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		The Colony (N)		License to Drill		Mayday		Daily Planet
	575	583	43	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According/Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Due South
	601	562	45	SLC	Rich Poor	Rich Poor	End of Leash	End of Leash	End/Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
	625	548	46	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Just for Laughs Laughs		Daily Show
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	College Basketball Mississippi at Georgia. (Live)				Law & Order: Special Victims		The Office
	600	564	49	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Agent-Agent	Intervention	Property Virgin	Unsellable	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis	(DVS)	Lost "316"		Chuck Chuck flunks out of spy school. (N)				Stargate SG-1
	581	566	53	MTV	Peak Season	After	Cribs	Parent Control	The Real World		The Real World (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Rescue Ink		Hoarders		Hoarders "Tara; Betty"		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Spoiled Rotten
	522	506	55	HIS	Ice Pilots NWT (N)		Nostradamus Effect (N)		Ice Road Truckers		Ice Pilots NWT (HDTV)		Re-Inventors
	129	773	60	CD	Biographies "George Clooney"		Le Convoi de l'extrême (HDTV)		Destr Expr	Destr Expr	Histoires de crimes (HDTV)		Images-chocs
	261	394	61	V	Murder, She Wrote		Keeping Up	Open All Hours	Doc Martin		Unscripted (N)	God Bless	Poltergeist
	602	567	62	W	Supernanny		Dine With Me	Grocery Bag	The Restaurant	The Restaurant	Chef Worthy	Fearl-Kitchen	Grocery Bag
	269	350	70	APTN	APTN InFocus	Ni Sauvage, Ni Barbare		Wings-Canada	*Lakota Woman: Siege at Wounded Knee* ★★★ (1994, Drama) Irene Bedard.				
	621	527	71	TLK	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	603	561	95	FN	Ricardo	Fresh-Anna	Challenge		Iron Chef America		Chopped (N)		Restaurant

cable variety

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Today Flurries 40% -8° / -13°
Thursday Variable -6° / -7°
Friday Variable 0° / -11°

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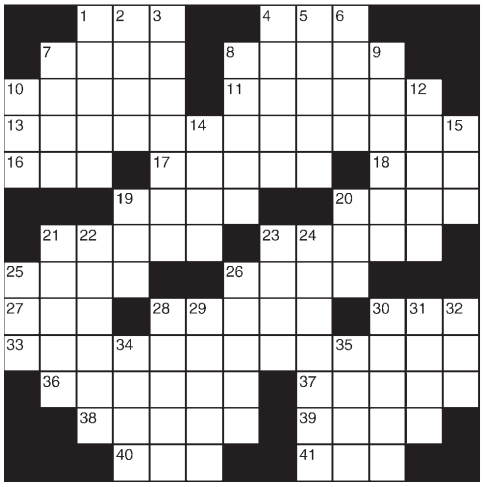
Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	9	5					4	
6					1		8	
3			8		9	5		
	3			7		8		2
7		8		3			6	
		4	3		2			7
	6		9					4
	1					2	3	

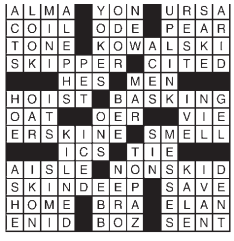
ACROSS

1 Bound
4 E-I connection
7 Snaky shape
8 The Little Mermaid
10 Hot box?
11 Approach the curb
13 Noted Texas musician/novelist/politician
16 South Bend's st.
17 Moves like a moth
18 Story of a lifetime?
19 Two-way
20 Deserve
21 Like Shirley Temple's hair
23 Coffin stands
25 Broadway award
26 Make fun of
27 Pretend
28 Expiate
30 Dandy
33 "Yakety Sax" musician
36 Poets' name for England
37 Tire pattern
38 Column features
39 Leave a lasting impression?
40 Agent, for short
41 Request

DOWN

1 Pooch
2 Barnyard sound
3 Frolicsome
4 Some produce
5 Saint honored on Sept. 1
6 Maintained
7 He slew 25% of the world's population
8 Time for foolishness?
9 Of the loins
10 Schuss
12 Two-somes
14 TV chef Bobby
15 "Smoking or —?"
19 Parch
20 "A mouse!"
21 Winter warmer
22 Incalculable
23 Former European capital city
24 Summertime quencher
25 Bill
26 Reacts to a pun
28 In reserve
29 Scout unit
30 Particle
31 Colorful fish
32 Third degree?
34 Mountain transport
35 Scraps

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

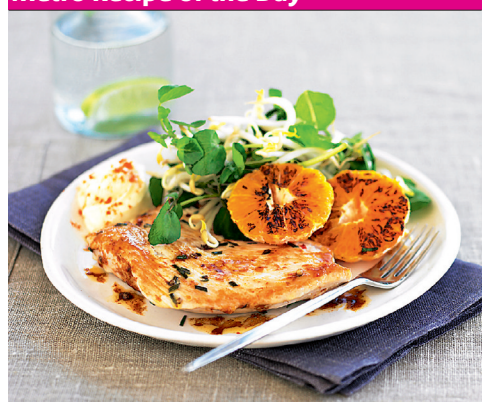


4	3	5	9	6	8	2	7	1
1	8	7	3	4	2	6	9	5
2	9	6	5	1	7	8	3	4
5	1	4	7	3	6	9	2	8
8	6	2	1	9	5	7	4	3
9	7	3	2	8	4	5	1	6
3	2	8	6	7	1	4	5	9
6	5	1	4	2	9	3	8	7
7	4	9	8	5	3	1	6	2

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day



Mandarin Turkey with Bean Sprout and Watercress Salad

INGREDIENTS:

4 skinless boneless turkey breasts
2 tbsp (25 mL) chopped fresh rosemary
1 tsp (5 mL) crushed chili flakes
1 tbsp (15 mL) coriander seeds, coarsely crushed
2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
4 mandarin oranges
14 oz (400 g) bean sprouts
2 2/3 oz (75 g) watercress
8 scallions, sliced
4 tsp (20 mL) sugar
8 tbsp (125 mL) mayonnaise

METHOD:

1. Put turkey steaks into shallow dish. Sprinkle with rosemary, crushed chili flakes, coriander seeds and 1 tbsp (15 mL) oil. Season and turn to distribute seasonings.

2. Peel mandarins, then slice in half across middle and discard seeds.

3. Mix sprouts, watercress and scallions; divide among four plates.

4. Heat frying pan over high heat. Brush turkey with remaining oil. Cook over high heat until well browned and cooked through. Transfer to plates.

5. Add mandarin halves to pan, cut side down, and cook 30-60 seconds. Transfer to plates, browned side up, and top each half with 1/2 tsp (2 mL) sugar. Add dollop of mayonnaise to each plate. Serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You enjoy upsetting the odds and doing what others say cannot be done. You'll enjoy today.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Do something different today, something no one would expect of someone as self-controlled as you.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
If you want to impress a person who means a lot to you today then do whatever it takes and don't worry how much it might cost.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You have nothing to worry about and everything to look forward to, so cheer up and focus on all the good things that will be coming into your life.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Whatever problems you face today you must approach them from all possible angles. Don't limit your options.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Maybe you're in one of those moods when you enjoy wallowing in self-pity. If so, snap out of it. Wallow instead in the wonder of the world.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You've had to hold back from showing your true feelings in recent weeks but now you will most likely go right the other way and be emotional in the extreme

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Put money worries and work issues firmly behind you today and do something that makes you feel good about yourself.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Promise yourself here and now that no matter what happens today you won't take it too seriously and you won't take it too personally.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
This is a thoroughly enjoyable time for you and it will get more enjoyable still over the next few days.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You won't hesitate to help someone in need today, but the planets warn that a lot of their problems are of their own making.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Someone you meet will get your heart beating faster, but if you want this relationship to grow you must make your feelings known right away.

Appy New Year!

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Metro

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• Dual front airbags • Multi-adjustable driver's seat
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• 60/40 split fold-down rear seat • Rear adjustable head restraints

GL Sport model shown

Limited model shown

2010 ELANTRA L

MSRP ~~$15,849~~

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City: 7.8L/100KM† Hwy: 5.6L/100KM†

• Dual front airbags • AM/FM/CD/MP3/Aux. plug audio system
• Power front windows • Power door locks • 60/40 split fold-down rear seat

GLS Sport model shown

2010 ELANTRA TOURING L

MSRP ~~$14,999~~

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City: 8.9L/100KM† Hwy: 6.4L/100KM†

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• Power windows • Power door locks • 60/40 split fold-down rear seat

Limited model shown

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• 6-speed transmission • Standard Bluetooth® hands-free phone system • A/C
• 6 airbags • AM/FM/XM/CD/MP3/Aux. plug/USB port 6-speaker audio system

City: 10.7L/100KM† Hwy: 7.5L/100KM†

Limited model shown

2010 SONATA GL

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City: 9.7L/100KM† Hwy: 6.2L/100KM†

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